

**Walmsley Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Blackburn Road

Egerton

Bolton

BL7 9SA

**Diocese of Manchester**

Bolton LEA

SIAS inspection: 6 December 2005

Previous S23 inspection: 18- 20 and 22 September 2000

URN: 105232

Headteacher: Mrs. Debra Carr

SIAS Inspector NS#176: Mr. Ian Young

**Context**

Walmsley CE Primary is a popular school situated on the outskirts of Bolton between the villages of Egerton, Bromley Cross and Dunscar. There are ten classes altogether, five in each of the junior and infant departments. Most pupils starting school are achieving levels above age expectations. There are strong links with the church and parents work in partnership with the school to secure the best possible provision for their children.

**Summary Judgement**

Walmsley CE Primary School is an outstanding church school. At its core is its Christian ethos which embraces and enriches all aspects of school life. The high quality of relationships within the school reflects the strong Christian principles and attitudes that are developed and promoted by all.

**Established Strengths**

- The welcoming and caring ethos so evident within the school community.
- Pupils' outstanding knowledge and understanding of Christianity and their application of Christian values into their own lives.
- The strong and effective links with the church and wider community.
- The outstanding leadership of the Head Teacher who is supported by a dedicated and enthusiastic team of staff, governors and clergy.

**Focus for development**

- As part of the school's self-review cycle, regularly evaluate the quality and impact of worship on the whole school community.
- Develop opportunities for other adults to actively and regularly participate in all daily acts of collective worship.

### **How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?**

Walmsley School is outstanding in meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character.

The school makes excellent provision to meet the needs of all its learners, giving careful attention to how this can best be achieved across the curriculum. Learners from all groups feel included, valued and special. Every member of the school community is equally valued and their achievements are recognised and celebrated at every opportunity. *Show and Tell* assembly time is a very effective way of recognising and celebrating the individual achievement of all pupils. Relationships between staff and learners, amongst learners and between staff are outstanding. The high quality of teaching and learning confirms that this is a community that develops trust, compassion, hope and friendship with its learners in imaginative and creative ways.

The children have a deep sense of understanding the needs of those less fortunate than themselves. Over several years, the school has developed strong links with a family living in Africa. During each week in Lent, pupils hold a collection and the money is sent out to support the family in buying basic provisions, books and clothes during the year.

### **What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?**

Walmsley Church, especially through the contribution of the Vicar and his congregation. The church building is used for whole school celebrations and a Sermons Sunday service is held once a year as part of the Christian witness to the wider community. The school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of those of other faiths. Pupils achieve good spiritual and moral development from collective worship. However, there are insufficient opportunities for staff to derive inspiration, spiritual growth and affirmation from daily acts of worship because they only attend whole school assemblies once each week.

The quality of worship inspected was good overall. There were opportunities for formal prayer and praise together with some appropriate responses from children. Appropriately chosen Christian songs were used during the worship. The contribution of music to the worship experience is outstanding. Children enjoy singing, which they do in tune with enthusiasm, passion and conviction. Pupils also play instruments well to create atmosphere and to enrich the worship experience for all those in attendance.

### **How effective is the Religious Education in the school?**

The effectiveness of religious education is outstanding.

Standards in Religious Education are outstanding. All learners achieve very high standards because of the inspirational teaching and the imaginative use of high quality resources including inviting in visitors of other faiths and the inclusion of extended writing opportunities to develop pupil's understanding of key events in the life of Jesus Christ.

One class of children worked in small groups to retell stories from the Old and New Testament using collage materials and fabric paints. Their individual banners are to be sewn together to form a tapestry that will be used as a backdrop for special assemblies during the school year.

All pupils demonstrate a very positive attitude towards RE. One child described lessons as, "*a special time when we can think about God and the special gifts that He has placed inside each of us*". RE makes a very good contribution to the spiritual and moral development of all learners. Children have a shared sense of right and wrong and use quiet times during the school day to reflect on their place in God's world. The very high quality of children's work on display around the school and children's ability to talk extensively about key events in the Bible reflects the importance of RE in the daily life of the school.

### **How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?**

Leadership and management of the school as a church school are outstanding.

The quality of leadership contributes significantly to the success of the school as a church school. The Head teacher and governors provide exceptionally effective leadership and work in very close partnership. The school, through its leadership team shows outstanding care for all its pupils. Some very successful initiatives such as the Peer Mediator scheme have helped pupils to deal with minor conflict and promote Christian values of tolerance, respect, justice and forgiveness.

The school has a very conscientious subject leader, relatively new to the post, who has worked hard since her appointment to draw up an action plan to further develop Religious Education at this school. The well-organised planning and delivery of RE and worship stems directly from the outstanding leadership and management skills of the Head Teacher and her senior staff team.

The school's Christian purpose is very well thought out, is clearly communicated and understood by parents, supported by all members of the school staff and evident in practice in all aspects of school life.

SIAS DECEMBER 2005 Walmsley CE VA Primary School, Bolton BL7 9SA